

**2009 ADE/CEF Promising Practices Awards**  
**Part I: Cover Sheet**

Practice Name Buddy Groups  
Name of Principal Jim Padglick  
Official School Name Ironwood Elementary School  
School Mailing Address 14850 N. 39<sup>TH</sup> Ave. Tel. ( ) 602-896 ext. 5605  
School Website Washington Elementary School District  
Phoenix, AZ 85053 Email Address Jim.Padglick@wcdschools.org  
City Zip

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate. If my program is recognized as a Promising Practice the contents of this application may be made available to the public.

James J. Padglick Date 11/25/08  
(Principal's signature)

Name of Superintendent Susan J. Cook  
District Name Washington Elementary Sch. Dist Tel. ( ) 602-347-2600  
District Mailing 4650 W. Sweetwater Avenue  
Glendale, AZ 85304 Email Address Susie.cook@wcdschools.org  
City Zip

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

Susan J. Cook Date 11/26/08  
(Superintendent's signature)

## 2009 ADE/CEF Promising Practices Awards

### Part II: Background Information

1. Category that best describes the area where the school is located:

- ☒ Urban or large central city      ☐ Suburban  
☐ Suburban school with characteristics typical of an urban area  
☐ Small city or town in a rural area      ☐ Rural

2. 8 Number of years the principal has been in her/his position at this school.

           If less than three years, how long was the previous principal at this school?

3. Number of students enrolled at each grade level or its equivalent in applying school building:

Pre-K <u>25</u>	5th <u>82</u>	10th <u>          </u>
1st <u>90</u>	6th <u>93</u>	11th <u>          </u>
2nd <u>64</u>	7th <u>          </u>	12th <u>          </u>
3rd <u>80</u>	8th <u>          </u>	
4th <u>83</u>	9th <u>          </u>	
TOTAL: <u>585</u>		

4. Limited English proficient students in the school: 6.6 % 37 Total Number

Number of languages represented:            Specify languages:

5. Students who participate in free/reduced-priced meals: 41.73 % 244 Total Number

*If this method is not a reasonably accurate estimate of the percentage of students from low-income families or the school does not participate in the federally-supported lunch program, specify a more accurate estimate, tell why the school chose it, and explain how it arrived at this estimate.*

Arabic      English      Mandarin  
 Armenian      Filipino      Other-non-india  
 Bengali      Hindi      Polish  
 Romanian      Russian  
 Serbian      Serbo-Croatian  
 Spanish      Tagalog  
 Vietnamese

### **Practice Implemented by Ironwood Elementary School**

Ironwood Elementary has been a Community of Caring School for the past ten years. Our school emphasizes the five core values; respect, trust, caring, responsibility, and family, on a daily basis. Our Buddy Groups help our students put these values into meaningful practice.

Buddy Groups are composed of 2 different grade level classes paired together, usually an older class paired with a younger class. These pairings provide numerous opportunities for learning and relationship building. The buddies work together on a variety of lessons and activities based on the monthly core value theme. The pair of teachers plan the lesson together to make it an appropriate learning experience for their classes. The students look forward to "Buddy Days" and are excited to see each other when out on the campus. Many Buddy Groups meet outside the scheduled monthly activity. The Buddy Groups become part of the Ironwood family.

### **How Practice Contributes to Character Development**

The staff and students of Ironwood agree that Buddy Groups are an essential part of our school's philosophy and practice. Our school mission statement says, "We care about each other, our school, and our neighborhood. We have respect for ourselves and others. We work together as a team, to develop our minds and bodies." Buddy Groups are an excellent opportunity to put our mission statement into practice. Students demonstrate caring, respect, responsibility, trust, and family in all their lessons. These Buddy Group lessons carry over into our daily school routine. Students can be heard saying, "That's not very caring." ...

Feedback from students and staff are an important part of the Buddy Group process. Changes have been implemented based on the input that has been received. Never once has any

student wanted to see Buddy Groups cease to exist at Ironwood. Our most recent survey had a 100% agreement to continue Buddy Groups.

### **Impact That Practice Has On Ironwood Students**

Ironwood students and staff take great pride in being part of Buddy Groups. The dawn of Buddy Group Day brings with it a great sense of anticipation. Students can't wait until the hands of the clock reach the appointed time. A card or note from a buddy can brighten anyone's day. Students encourage their buddies to achieve in all areas. Parents have expressed support for our Buddy Group practice through the years, at times, even being some of our group leaders.